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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

May 22, 2008

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'Be Your Own Safety Manager' during 101 Critical Days

By

Roger Drinnon

Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Personal responsibility, traffic safety awareness and a “wingman” attitude are the key tenets during the 101 Critical Days of Summer, according to AMC Commander Gen. Arthur Lichte.

Air Mobility Command's safety campaign for this season, which runs Friday until Sept. 2, is themed “Be Your Own Safety Manager.”

The effort supports the Air Force-wide campaign, which runs annually to counter the increase in fatalities and mishaps during the summer months. The campaign attempts to improve personal awareness of safety risks and thereby reduce the number of summer fatalities and mishaps.

“As an Air Force, we continue to lose more Airmen in traffic accidents than we do conducting operations around the globe,” said General Lichte.

The general said Air Force-wide, 14 of 19 Air Force fatalities last sea-

See **SAFETY**, Page 6



Photo by Abner Guzman

Senior Airman Arnold Bustillo, 62nd Security Forces, demonstrates writing a ticket for driving on base without a seatbelt and talking on a cell phone without a hands-free device during a simulated random vehicle check — both of which violate Department of Defense policy. Fourteen of the 19 Air Force fatalities during the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign last season were from traffic or vehicle-related accidents.

General discusses Burma relief posture, Joint Basing during visit

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

“Every time a C-17 (Globemaster III) from McChord, or any of our other bases, lands anywhere around the world, it's a symbol of hope,” said Gen. Arthur Lichte, commander of Air Mobility Command, May 15 during his visit here.

“It may be in the middle of an earthquake, it may be in the middle of a tsunami, it may be in the middle of a cyclone. And it's there to provide hope for the people who see it, he said. “It brings food, it brings equipment, it brings medical supplies and it may be taking people out of harm's way and transporting them to another place.”

The global reach of McChord, AMC and the Air Force was an important and timely topic the general addressed during his first visit here since assuming command of AMC in September.

“In AMC, we can go with a clenched fist and strike any of our enemies, or we can go with the outstretched hand providing humanitarian or disaster relief, like the situation that is occurring in

Burma right now,” said General Lichte.

“Right now we have crews here that are on standby, ready to go at a moment's notice if called upon to go in and provide that relief,” he said.

The 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott Air Force Base is monitoring the situation very closely, he said. According to AMC, the 618th TACC coordinates hundreds of airlift and air refueling missions each day, and can seamlessly redirect aircraft to support requirements for contingency or disaster relief operations.

“We've been called on to do this before,” said General Lichte, noting AMC's role in relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina and the Pakistan earthquake in 2005.

According to AMC statistics, more than 14,600 passengers, including 3,000 patients were moved in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. More than 7,600 tons of relief supplies were provided after the Pakistan earthquake.

While McChord conducts operations on a daily basis, none of the missions would be successful without refueling tankers. The contract to build the KC-45 tanker, announced Feb. 29, ensured that McChord C-17s will be flying well into the



Photo by Randy White

Gen. Arthur Lichte, commander of Air Mobility Command, right, talks with Michael Ayers, 62nd Communications Squadron, during a briefing May 15 in Hangar 4.

future.

The KC-45 is needed badly, said General Lichte, and the average age of our current tankers is 47 years.

See **LICHTE**, Page 6

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 68 Low: 46	Hi: 70 Low: 48	Hi: 69 Low: 50

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday
Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Air Expo 2008 Countdown

visit www.mcchordairexpo.com

58 days

Don't miss it ...

Enlisted BBQ

The Enlisted Barbecue is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the grassy area across the street from the Rainier and St. Helen softball fields on 5th Street.

Remembering the sacrifices of our honored fallen

By

General Arthur J. Lichte
Commander, Air Mobility Command

This Memorial Day I am very aware of the sacrifices being made daily by our American service men and women. My recent visit to our fine troops at Dover Air Force Base – where our fallen heroes return with dignity – was a vivid reminder of the cost of freedom.

As military members, Memorial Day is also a poignant reminder of the seriousness of our business. Air Mobility Command engages daily in key missions that are helping to win this war

against terrorism. From tanker missions over hostile territory to delivering cargo to the last tactical mile, what we do is of vital importance to our nation in the fight for all who love freedom. We are engaged in this fight with the knowledge that what we do ensures freedom – and extends hope – throughout the world.

I'm also reminded this Memorial Day of how mobility Airmen save the lives of fellow service members each day. More than 48,500 Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen have been successfully aeromedically evacuated since October 2001. Also, your efforts to provide airlift capability in combat areas keep more than 12,000 personnel and 5,000 vehicles off dangerous road

ways each month, helping to defeat the enemy's improvised explosive device strategy. Despite these efforts however, we still lost precious and noble people whose sacrifice we honor not only on this day, but also in our hearts forever. We honor them on Memorial Day and extend their dignity, honor and respect with continued focus on the mission.

I am honored to serve with you, and I am ever grateful to our U.S. servicemen and women who have given their lives for our country. As you celebrate Memorial Day, take a moment to remember these brave men and women and their families. I thank you and your family for your daily service and sacrifice.

Online fitness test challenges Airmen's fitness goals

By

Col. Thomas McCauley
62nd Medical Group
commander

May is Air Force Fitness Month, placing an emphasis on motivation and behavior change to incorporate exercise into our weekly routines. That is always easier said than done, especially for outdoor activity during our Northwest winters with short daylight hours and frequent precipitation. National Center for Health Statistics data for 2002 estimates 65 percent of adults are overweight or obese. This contributes to many health problems, and overwhelming evidence shows that exercise is one of the most important activities to improve your health — period.

As adults, many of us are somewhat competitive, which can be a potential motivator. With that in mind, consider that a gauntlet of sorts was recently thrown down

when the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports introduced a new adult fitness test based on the exercises that millions of students undertake each year as they aim for a certificate signed by the president.

The test will look familiar to active duty members, and is aimed at people 18 and older who are in good health. The aerobic component of the tests consists of a one-mile walk or 1.5-mile run. Push-ups and half sit-ups make up the strength test. The push-ups are done until failure and the sit-ups are done for one minute. The third component measures flexibility with a stretching exercise called the "sit-and-reach."

Scoring is Web-based (<http://www.adultfitnesstest.org>) with test results entered online as well as other information such as age, gender, height and weight. You will see where your scores rank among people of the same age. For example, if someone scores in the 75th percentile for push-ups, that means 75



Photo by Adamarie Lewis-Page

Airmen hit the pavement May 16 as part of the monthly Wing Run. During Air Force Fitness Month, Airmen can test their running, push-up and sit-up scores against their peers using a scoring calculator at <http://www.adultfitnesstest.org>.

percent of the scores fall below your score.

Set a personal goal for the test, such as scoring better than average

at the 51st percentile, or challenge a friend to compete. Besides getting bragging rights, you can also improve your health.

Professionals

of the week

10th Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Adam Hardy

Duty title:
C-17 Globemaster III instructor loadmaster

Duty section:
10 AS training flight

Hometown:
Kennewick, Wash.

Why he's tops:

Airman Hardy hit the ground running after returning from a four-month deployment. He mastered the instructor course at Altus Air Force Base, Okla., and is aggressively gaining knowledge in the training flight. He recently put together a program for his fellow loadmasters on "certification for airlift." This review led each member through the process of accepting unique cargo for airlift from paperwork to actual loading. Despite a busy flying schedule, he is also the 10th AS Booster Club secretary and sports representative. As booster club secretary, he has been integral to building up the squadron though activities such as raising money for a popcorn machine and manning fundraising events at White River Amphitheater and Safeco Field. Lastly, Airman Hardy's professionalism garnered him the squadron's Airman of the Quarter while he was deployed.



Airman 1st Class Gary Woo

Duty title:
C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster

Duty section:
10th AS training flight

Hometown:
Nashville, Tenn.

Why he's super:

Airman Woo is a highly-motivated individual, both on and off duty. During deployment operations, he was recognized as the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron's Airman of the Month for November 2007 and 817th EAS Loadmaster of the Month for February 2008. Airman Woo also volunteered to be a chef during squadron cookouts, preparing a gourmet menu and boosting 10th AS Airmen's deployed morale. He has volunteered more than 30 hours at St. Francis Cabrini as a teacher's aide and he also assisted in organizing the school's book fair. Airman Woo also briefed members of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce during a C-17 static display. Lastly, during the Aircrew Standardization Evaluation, Airman Woo was the point of contact for the control took kit program as the newest addition to the training office.



Photo not available

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62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

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Name the Tanker: Leaders seek inputs from Airmen

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force senior leaders are asking all Airmen for suggestions on a name for the service’s newest tanker aircraft, the KC-45A.

“I’ve asked that we seek our Airmen’s help to find a name for the KC-45,” said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne. “I prefer the name emphasize our heritage or our future horizon, but I’m most interested to see what our Airmen suggest.”

As the future operators of the KC-45A, Air Mobility Command officials gathered many good suggestions from personnel in their units. Those submissions will be on the list of names considered during final selection. However, the opportunity to submit proposed names is now open to all Air Force personnel.

Until May 30, active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen, as well as Air Force government civilians, can submit their suggestions to thetanker@pentagon.af.mil.

Suggested names must be brief, no more than two short words.

Along with the suggestion, entrants must include a brief explanation for their idea.

Entrants must also include their name, rank, contact information and duty station. Government civilians must identify their office and position.

The KC-45A will replace the current KC-135, which is the oldest aircraft in the Air Force’s fleet. It went into service in the 1950s.



A flight of U.S. Air Force F-4C Phantom fighter bombers refuel from a KC-135 tanker aircraft prior to making a strike during the Vietnam Conflict. Air Force senior leaders are asking Airmen for suggestions on a name for the KC-135's replacement, the KC-45A.

In the early days of aerial refueling, Air Force tankers were converted bombers such as the B-29 and the B-50. Advancements in technology in the 1950s led to the development of the KC-135 “Stratotanker.” In the 1980s, Air Force officials accepted the KC-10 “Extender” into the fleet. The KC-10 is a larger aerial refueling platform which also could double for airlift.

The KC-45A will offer greater air refueling capabilities and accommodate refueling for both Air Force and Navy aircraft within the same flight. Currently, KC-135s must be configured for one or the other before the flight begins.

This is not the first time the Air Force held a naming contest for its aircraft. In 1976, the Air Force held a “Name-the-Plane” contest for the

F-16. The winning entry, Fighting Falcon, was submitted by Tech. Sgt. Joseph A. Kurdell, a photo sensor shop supervisor for the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing.

He explained that while stationed at Lowery Air Force Base, Colo., he visited the Air Force Academy during football season. As the falcon is the school’s mascot, he decided to use it for the name of the fighter aircraft.



New Enlisted Heritage Room bridges past to present

By

Airman 1st Class Kirsten Wicker
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

It's been said that once you know your heritage, you always remember where you came from.

That is exactly what the new Enlisted Heritage Room at the McChord Clubs and Community Center is all about, according to base officials. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many people and agencies on base, the enlisted now have a room to call their own. Fashioned out of two years of ideas, donations and good old fashioned sweat, the former Emerald Room is now a cozy lounge dedicated to the past, present and future of our enlisted ranks, said Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck, command chief master sergeant of the 62nd Airlift Wing.

The room was a team effort put forth by the group chiefs, the First Sergeants Council, the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron and many others who contributed to make the room a reality, Chief Kuck said.

"The First Sergeants Council donated the glass cabinets you see when you first walk in, the Group chiefs chose the photos on the walls and the 62nd CES mounted the framed photos and installed new lighting," he said.

Right down to the mirrored

stripes on the wall, the room is a monument to enlisted history and tradition, with attention to detail prevalent throughout the space. The photos show McChord's Airmen working and living at home and in the deployed environment. There is a wall dedicated to recognizing the dates of service and photos of every chief master sergeant of the Air Force from the position's very beginnings to the present day. The Airmen's Creed is etched in the large glass window upon at the entrance of the room and the cabinets contain mementos from each level of rank.

"The room helps Airmen understand why we do what we do," said Master Sgt. John Rogers, 62nd CES first sergeant.

Of particular note is the wooden bridge situated on a table near the sofas. It is a cable bridge, matching the coffee-colored sofas with its dark wood and prominent shape. It has nine votives across its road for holding candles.

"This bridge symbolizes the passage from Airman to noncommissioned officer to senior noncommissioned officer," Chief Kuck said. "The passage of each of the nine ranks and each of the levels of leadership are represented as you make your way across it."

While renamed the Enlisted Heritage Room and sporting a new look, the room is still a work in progress. Additional furniture,



Photo by Randy White

The Enlisted Heritage Room inside the McChord Clubs and Community Center is a lounge dedicated to the past, present and future of the Air Force's enlisted ranks and features different heritage pieces and photographs throughout the room.

tables and lamps may be added, as well as more history and heritage pieces to fill the cabinets.

"It is our responsibility as NCOs and senior NCOs to pass that heritage along to up and coming Airmen," said Senior Master Sgt. John McDonald, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron. "If we don't,

they will never know and will go on the way they are without knowing where it is they came from."

Everyone is invited to visit the room and enjoy the improvements.

"You can't know where you are going unless you know where you have been," Chief Kuck said. "This is your room, enlisted, enjoy it."



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

IRAQ — Staff Sgt. Grailin Blamer, 5th Air Operations Support Squadron, prepares for a foot patrol with his Fort Lewis Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Sergeant Blamer is a joint terminal air controller who won the 2005 Lance P. Sijan Air Force Leadership Award, an award handed out to recognize individuals who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in their jobs and in their lives.



Courtesy photo

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Airman 1st Class Josh Scott, left, and Staff Sgt. Justin Pilant, both 5th Air Support Operations Squadron, review mission preparation documents before departing the base. Both are joint terminal air controllers.



From SAFETY, Page 1

son were from traffic or vehicle-related accidents, and six of those fatalities involved motorcycles - primarily sport bikes.

AMC safety officials say traffic safety awareness includes “human factors” such as avoiding distractions, driving courteously and defensively, and being alert to pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles, mopeds and other forms of transportation on the road while driving. Obeying traffic laws and wearing safety belts are other important factors.

The Air Force’s vehicle-related fatalities in 2007 could have been avoided, said General Lichte.

“The causes of all of last year’s traffic fatalities were preventable,” he said. “The common factors were poor decision-making, excessive speed, drinking and driving, or a failure to use seatbelts. In each case, the driver either failed to evaluate the risks associated with his or her actions, or his or her wingman failed to intervene.”

While traffic and water safety continue to be the big concerns during the campaign Air Force-wide, minor accidents that result in sprains,

strains, cuts and lacerations are what concern safety officials here, said Ken Heath, 62nd Airlift Wing chief of ground safety.

“Fortunately for us, we’ve had no fatalities here since 2001,” he said. “We’ve been lucky.”

However, those minor Class C injuries still have a tendency to impact the mission, he said. A Class C incident is something that causes an Airman to be placed on quarters or convalescent leave.

During last year’s 101 Critical Days campaign, there were 100 total mishaps reported, 22 of them being classified as Class C injuries.

But if recent history is any indicator of the upcoming campaign, it will be a good summer, Mr. Heath said.

During the eight-month span leading up to the 101 CDS, the base had 45 less mishaps in comparison to the previous year.

“We want to keep that trend going,” he said.

The 62nd AW safety office currently has this year’s 101 CDS safety video available for viewing on the Share Point site, and a new video will be added each month during the campaign, Mr. Heath said.

(62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs contributed to this article.)

From LICHTE, Page 1

“As a war fighting commander responsible for providing air refueling, I need to be thinking down the road, and we can’t just keep flying these 50-year old tankers,” he said. “If everything goes right, and we start with the KC-45 rather quickly, it will still take a long time to replace all the KC-135’s.”

He estimated that the last KC-135 would likely still be flying in 2040, at more than 80 years old.

Missions, he said, would be comparable to driving an 80-year-old car from New York to California. “It might be pretty tricky for you to do that and would probably take a lot of maintenance. And that’s what’s happening with our KC-135.”

Air Force senior leaders are asking all Airmen for suggestions on a name for the KC-45A, according to an announcement May 15 from

AFPN. The ‘Name the Tanker’ contest is an opportunity for everyone in the Air Force, said General Lichte. While he is looking forward to seeing what names are submitted for the tanker, he reiterated the most important priority was getting them on the ramp.

Ensuring the global reach of AMC enforces all three of the Air Force’s top priorities - Winning Today’s Fight, Taking Care of our People, and Preparing for Tomorrow’s Challenges. “We are out there engaged in the fight,” said General Lichte. “Air Mobility Command leads the effort in what’s going on in the Global War on Terror. We are taking care of our people and we see that every day with the different missions that we do as well,” he said.

Along with air fleet modernization and acquisition efforts, Joint Basing is another example of Preparing for Tomorrow’s Challenges.

“AMC wants to make sure joint basing is a

tremendous success,” said General Lichte. As McChord is in Phase II, he said, there would be a little more time to continue to work the memorandum of agreement.

“We have an opportunity to learn from some of the earlier joint basing decisions and can apply those lessons learned to McChord,” he said. “As we do this, we must remember that Airmen take care of airfields and we need to ensure we secure everything needed to execute this mission at this great airfield in the wonderful city of Tacoma.”

“Joint basing should lead to efficiencies and dollar savings,” he said. “We need to make sure we lead these efficiency efforts and consolidate where we can.”

General Lichte said that flexibility and authority must be maintained in order to appropriately take care of Airmen and their families, all while preparing Airmen to deploy and execute the mission.



62nd MXG celebrates Aviation Maintenance Technician Day

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

With Saturday recognized state-wide as Aviation Maintenance Technician Day, 62nd Maintenance Group leadership is asking its Airmen to stop for a minute and reflect on their role in a long legacy of aviation maintainers.

On May 24, 2007, a United States House of Representatives resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day was introduced. Congressman Bob Filner of California sponsored the resolution, which passed by a voice vote April 30, 2008.

“Sometimes the guys can get caught up in the changing of tires or other maintenance duties and forget that they are part of a great legacy,” said Capt. Nick Unruh, 62nd MXG. “This day brings recognition for the guy behind the curtain.”

Washington is one of the 45 states proclaiming the day of recognition for both

military and civilian aviation maintenance professionals. May 24 is significant to aviation professionals in that it is the birthday of Charles E. Taylor, who built the first engine for the Wright Flyer, which propelled the Wright brothers to flight on Dec. 17, 1903.

The House Resolution #444 states “whereas aviation maintenance technicians today plan an essential role in ensuring the safety and security of civil and military aircraft ... the duties of aviation maintenance technicians are critical to United States homeland security.”

It is important that maintenance Airmen realize their vital role in aviation and the great legacy that has come before them, said Col. Tracy Smiedendorf, 62nd MXG commander.

“Other professionals have their day of recognition, now the proud aviation maintainers have theirs and the memory of their founding father is also honored,” Colonel Smiedendorf said. “So on Saturday when you see an airplane in the air ... know that maintainers put it there!”



Photo by Adamarie Lewis-Page

Check it out!

Senior Master Sgt. David Hansen and Senior Master Sgt. Mary Smith listen to a vendor talk about his product during Vendor's Day. The event for Government Purchase Card holders was hosted in Hangar 9 here May 15.



62nd Medical Group Redesignation



This was the previous home of the 62nd MDG clinic before moving to its current location.

62nd MDG has rich history at McChord

By Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

A historical mission will transform this summer as the 62nd Medical Group is redesignated into the 62nd Medical Squadron.

Although the redesignation may sound like a huge change, the transformation and alignment with Madigan Army Medical System is only an expansion of an already entrenched relationship, according to 62nd MDG officials.

Since 1948, the 62nd Medical Group has been inactivated and reactivated twice and redesignated seven times, said Lt. Col. John Andrus, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron commander who will take over as the new 62nd MDS commander after the redesignation. "With our current redesignation back to the 62d Medical Squadron, we continue a long tradition of adjusting to changing times," he said. "However, as always, our proud tradition of providing compassionate care and relevant mission support to the men, women and families of Team McChord remains our constant and will carry us into the future."

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act mandated the changes, which have been slowly implemented over the past year. The McChord clinic has pressed forward with these transitions and a great deal of credit is given to the phenomenal working relationships between the Army and Air Force, according to 62nd MDG officials. They continue to stress the fact that there will be no loss of services and the McChord Clinic will continue to be the gateway for medical and specialty care.



Courtesy photo

Historical Timeline

- **May 5, 1938** – McChord Field established by the Governor of Washington
- **Sept. 18, 1947** – Air Force formed as an independent military service/branch
- **June 23, 1948** - Constituted 62nd Station Medical Group
- **Aug. 22, 1948** – Activated 62nd Station Medical Group
- **April 1, 1949** – Redesignated the 62nd Medical Group
- **June 1, 1950** - Inactivated
- **April 1, 1952** – Activated
- **Feb. 16, 1954** – Redesignated 62nd Tactical Infirmary
- **Aug. 18, 1956** – Redesignated 62nd Tactical Hospital
- **June 8, 1962** - Discontinued and inactivated
- **Oct. 7, 1970** – Constituted USAF Dispensary, McChord
- **Oct. 13, 1970** – Activated USAF Dispensary, McChord
- **Sept. 1, 1972** – Redesignated USAF Clinic, McChord
- **Dec. 1, 1991** – Redesignated 62nd Medical Group
- **Oct. 1, 1993** – Redesignated 62nd Medical Squadron
- **Oct. 1, 1994** – Redesignated 62nd Medical Group

UPCOMING EVENT

JUNE 20

- **Redesignation ceremony at 2:30 p.m. in front of the Medical Group Clinic**



Col. Wayne Schatz, former 62nd Airlift Wing commander, left, transfers command of the 62nd MDG to Col. Thomas McCauley during the 2004 change of command ceremony.

COMMANDERS

(Rank while serving as commander.)

Col. Mario Del Bacarro (1985-1988)
Col. William Trent (1988-1993)
Col. Thomas Massello (1993-1994)
Col. Steven Sem (1994-1996)
Col. Kathy Reynolds (1996-1998)
Col. Thomas Vann (1998-1999)
Col. Susanne Hansen (1999-2001)
Col. Byron Hepburn (2001-2002)
Col. Steven Regner (2002-2004)
Col. Thomas McCauley (2004-present)

DECORATIONS

Air Force Meritorious Unit Award

Nine-time Air Force Outstanding Unit Award winner



Courtesy photo

Making a splash

The base pool opens Saturday for the season. The pool hosts open swim from noon until 6 p.m. on weekends only until June 16. After June 16, open swim is seven days a week from noon until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission is \$1 daily or \$30 for an individual season pass and \$50 for a family season pass. Free active duty lap swim starts Tuesday and runs 7 to 9 a.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Photo by Abner Guzman



Mobility Airmen needed to showcase singing talent

By

Roger Drinnon

Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Airmen at AMC Wings and affiliate units will have the opportunity to showcase their singing talents this summer in the upcoming “AMC Icon” competition.

“We’re excited to offer this opportunity to showcase the vocal talent throughout the command,” said Sam Parker, chief of AMC Services Resources and Requirements and the command project manager of AMC Icon.

Mr. Parker said AMC Icon is a Karaoke-style competition based loosely on the television show “American Idol.” AMC installations and affiliate units will conduct base-level Icon contests during the July-August time frame. Base-level con-



tests are open to all authorized Services patrons 18 years of age and older. All participants are eligible to win the base-level contests.

However, only AMC active-duty Airmen and AMC affiliate-unit Guard and Reserve Airmen will be eligible to compete in the Headquarters AMC finals at Scott AFB, Oct. 23. The final competition will include contestants from all AMC installations, as well as the top AMC affiliate unit contestant.

Contestants will be judged on overall singing ability as they perform pre-selected songs. Judging criteria includes elements of vocal quality, style and showmanship.

“With each base guaranteed \$1,000 in cash prizes and \$2,000 in cash prizes at the command level, we’re hoping to bring out the best of the best in AMC,” said Mr. Parker.

For more information, contact a base Services Squadron, or go to www.amcsvs.com.

Courtesy photo

Helping hand

1st Lt. Mike Couchman, 7th Airlift Squadron, explains to Cadet Austin King some of the controls of the C-17 Globemaster III May 10 as part of the Col. Joe Jackson Invitational. The event was hosted by the Company Grade Officers Council and featured 170 students from five local Air Force ROTC detachments. The students experienced several demonstrations, a C-17 static tour and an athletic competition.



SECAF discusses continuous process improvement

LANSDOWNE, Va. (AFPN) — Speaking to more than 500 military members and civilians representing all services, as well as interagency and international partners, during the Department of Defense Continuous Process Improvement Symposium recently, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne emphasized Department of Defense officials are embracing a “culture shift.”

The Air Force name for continuous process improvement is Air Force Smart Operations 21, Secretary Wynne said. The AFSO21 program is a disciplined, structured method provided to the total force, including active, Air Guard, Reserve and civilian members, to enhance quality of work life, quality of life and readiness.

Secretary Wynne and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley are “absolutely committed” to creating an Air Force culture that eliminates waste, shares best practices and reduces cycle times for delivering combat capability, the secretary said. Air Force leaders are leaning forward to adopt process improvements in nearly every functional area, and the effects are being felt at bases worldwide.

“[CPI] is working ... and people are indeed listening,” Secretary Wynne said.

He offered several examples of rapid improvement events, or RIEs, happening across the Air Force. At Aviano Air Base, Italy, flight line

maintainers for fighter squadrons revamped their work processes to find efficiencies, resulting in more predictable work schedules.

“By changing how we provide flight line maintenance, some of our Airmen now go home to their families a little bit earlier each day,” he said. “This means that their families are probably happier. And when you have a happier family life, you have a happier Airman.

“If we do not take care of our people, then we are not taking care of our mission. This is where quality of work life intersects with quality of life,” he added.

Secretary Wynne also noted that officials at David Grant Medical Center at Travis AFB, Calif., have changed how they schedule operating rooms, reducing backlogs for surgeries and improving access to medical care for military members and their families.

Secretary Wynne said Air Force officials are applying AFSO21 principles to improve situational awareness and precision strike provided by unmanned aerial systems in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said Airmen continually surprise him with new and innovative ways to extract more effectiveness from UAS orbits.

Secretary Wynne challenged DOD leaders of all ranks to empower their people.

“I have always felt that it is the goal of leaders to remove barriers to

progress,” he said. “We are seeing leadership that wants [their people] to identify barriers to better performance. They are going to work to remove those barriers.”

Secretary Wynne said he and General Moseley are “leaning on Air Force senior leaders, including wing commanders, to produce results,” enabling junior Airmen to effect change in their organizations.

“Wing and unit commanders are relying on their people to bring them the good ideas,” he said. “I don’t see any other way for them to accomplish what we have tasked them to do. All of our wing commanders are required to report on rapid improvement events at their bases, and they are in search of RIEs that can facilitate change.”

Secretary Wynne also challenged the CPI community to consider how localized learning on one base can become enterprise learning across the entire Air Force and even DOD.

“If you get a breakthrough on one base, then you can share that best practice across other bases. We need you, as CPI experts, to figure out how to do this,” he said.

The Fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act has directed DOD and its subordinate departments to establish chief management officers. In the near future, there will be a discussion among Air Force senior leaders about how to connect the chief management officer concept with the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne addresses Department of Defense military and civilian employees during the 2008 DOD Continuous Process Improvement Symposium recently in Lansdowne, Va. The Secretary discussed Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century initiatives and reaffirmed the Air Force’s commitment to improving processes across the service.

existing AFSO 21 Process Council, Secretary Wynne said.

The chief management officers are mandated by Congress and will establish strategic management plans that describe performance goals and evaluate effectiveness and efficiency of DOD’s business operations.



Ali Airmen keep creepy crawlies contained

By
Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan
407th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Keeping creepy crawlies contained within Iraq is one of the biggest reasons Airmen from the 407th Provost Marshal's office inspect the bags and equipment of every Airman, Soldier, Sailor, civilian or other coalition forces personnel heading home.

"We're at the center of the program overseeing more than 90 inspectors assigned to Contingency Operating Base Adder, which inspects the cargo of more than 10,000 personnel and several million pounds of incoming and outgoing cargo," said Airman 1st Class Cody Colston, 407th PMO military police Airman who is deployed from Royal Air Forces Lakenheath, England.

"The Provost Marshal's office acts as the lead customs agent for the base; we inspect anything and everything going through here," Airman Colston said.

The Provost Marshal's office also manages and certifies Army and Navy customs inspectors for the program. The Airmen search for contraband items, such as war trophies and living creatures trying to hitch a free ride back to the United

States.

According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. loses approximately \$22.9 billion each year in crops lost to alien pests, such as the Khapra Beetle. Airmen in the PMO are trained to find these beetles that have been known to single-handedly cause more than \$23 million in agricultural losses a year.

"One of the biggest reasons we do this is because we're keeping foreign life from being imported into the United States," said Tech. Sgt. Benny Pierce, 407th PMO investigator, deployed from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Airmen look for all life within the cargo, including insects like camel spiders, black- and yellow-legged scorpions and sand flies. They are also checking to make sure all the cargo is clean, because soil from in-theatre can harbor seeds of invasive species of plants, which reportedly cost the U.S. \$138 billion and three million acres of lost land yearly.

Foreign insects and plants, however, pose only a small threat to land and agriculture, in comparison to the damage that could be caused to entire ecosystems if snakes, such as the desert horned viper or black desert cobra made it back to the homeland.

"If foreign snakes got in, they could eradicate entire species of birds," said Senior Airman Darren



A beetle scurries away after being discovered hiding in cargo headed to the United States from Ali Base, Iraq. Military police Airmen inspect all cargo and equipment for soil, insects and other forms of life that could be a threat to ecosystems, agriculture and land in the United States.

Taylor, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron entomologist, deployed from Hickam AFB, Hawaii. "If they got into the United States, they could have a huge effect on agriculture and native wildlife."

That's why the military police Airmen spend up to 120 man-hours a week completing these inspections.

"When our Airmen arrive, they go

through a four-hour customs class to get trained up on how to do these inspections and a practical application certification," said Capt. Kevin Lombardo, 407th Provost Marshal's office provost marshal, deployed from Peterson AFB, Colo. "We want to be environmentally friendly for our ecosystem back in America and prevent the contamination of foreign life and organisms."



Deployed environmental stewardship pays off

By

Capt. Jason McCree

386th Air Expeditionary Wing

Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — In the middle of the desert, Airmen have gone “green”.

These “green” Airmen, deployed to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, are participating in a recycling program designed to reduce the waste produced at an air base in Southwest Asia.

Items such as wooden pallets, metals, cardboard, plastic bottles and aluminum cans are all recycled by the Airmen who eat, sleep, live and work here.

“We have established a program where people can bring in plastic bottles, cardboard and aluminum cans to a centralized point,” said Master Sgt. Stephen Crews, 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. “These products are collected and hauled off base [to be recycled].”

To bring this recycling program to fruition, base officials contracted with a host-nation waste-management company. Airmen provide the contractor sorted recyclable material; the contractor transports the recyclable products to a facility where they are recycled and sold.

Through this arrangement, the wing reduces the host-nation’s solid-waste disposal costs by removing items from the waste stream that can be re-utilized, thereby reducing the number of pounds of waste requiring disposal.

“The wing also receives money as part of the arrangement with the

contractor,” said Lt. Col. Scott Warner, 386th ECES commander.

“Between November 2007 and March, the contractor removed more than 32 thousand pounds of scrap metal, netting tens of thousands of dollars for the wing,” said Colonel Warner. “Additionally, from February to April this year, the contractor recycled more than 50 thousand pounds of plastic bottles and cardboard, decreasing the amount of solid waste and saving money on garbage disposal costs.”

The proceeds from the sale of recyclable materials first must be used to cover the recycling operation costs, said Maj. Trevor Matsuo, 386th AEW budget officer. This includes all maintenance, equipment and overhead costs incurred from the recycling program.

“If a balance is still available, then half should be used to fund pollution abatement, energy conservation and occupational safety and health activities,” said Major Matsuo, who is deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan. “The remaining funds are then made available for the wing commander to fund morale and welfare activities.”

Plastic water bottles and cans are the wing’s most-recycled materials. While there are recycling bins located throughout the wing, the bulk of these items come from the fitness center and dining facility.

Master Sgt. P.J. Gacayan, 386th AEW command staff superintendent, is an Airman deployed here who takes advantage of the recycling opportunities throughout the base.

“I recycle when I’m at home, so I was glad to see that I could contin-



Photo by Capt. Jason McCree

Tech. Sgt. Hector Aponte swings a bag of water bottles into a recyclable materials container. Sergeant Aponte, with the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight at an air base in Southwest Asia, develops programs that ensure the Airmen assigned to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing are good stewards of the environment.

ue recycling here,” said Sergeant Gacayan, deployed from Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England. “This is my contribution to help enhance the health of our environment and make it better for the next generation.”

Recycling is also important to Colonel Warner, as he sees benefits in being good stewards of the environment.

Recycling benefits the environment, in that it makes productive use of materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill or burned,

he said.

“As stewards of the taxpayers’ dollars, we process this material through our recycling contractor, contributing to the economy of the local host nation as well as providing a small cash stream back to America.

“It is to our benefit to reduce the amount of material that ends up as waste,” said Colonel Warner. “It is important to promote the establishment and well-being of a ‘green’ industry focused turning trash and debris into clean, useful products.”



Enlisted Appreciation BBQ

The Pierce Military Business Alliance, along with volunteers from the Top 3, 5/6 Club and the Rising 4, will host an Enlisted Appreciation BBQ from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday at the grassy area across the street from the Rainier and St. Helen softball fields on 5th Street. In addition to food and a DJ, there will also be a Tug-O-War, hotdog eating contest, kick ball and one-pitch soft ball. For more information, e-mail Master Sgt. Steve Courson at steve.courson@mcchord.af.mil.

Deployed spouses dinner

The Chapel Support Center will host a luau-themed dinner for deployed spouses from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 2. All families with deployed or deploying spouses or those on temporary duty assignments are encouraged to attend. Those interested in attending must RSVP at 982-5556 by Wednesday. For more information, visit <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/awstaff/hc>.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

There will be a luncheon in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at noon on Wednesday at the Holiday Park Pavilion area. The luncheon will feature Asian food sampling and a cultural dance performance. For more information call or e-mail Senior Master Sgt. Gary Almogela at 982-7960 or gary.almogela@mcchord.af.mil.

Stop sign removed

A stop sign at the intersection of Levitow Blvd. and 2nd street has been removed. Westbound traffic on Levitow Blvd no longer has to stop.

Volunteers needed

McChord will host the Special Olympics Washington’s Summer Games May 30 to June 1 and the base still needs volunteers to help out with the event. Volunteers are needed to help out working the information booth, opening ceremony, victory happening and dance and volunteer and family barbeque. Volunteers are also needed to serve as bus operators, parking attendants and assist with cleanup and teardown.

Every squadron has a point of contact and interested volunteers should e-mail their rank, name, squadron, time and date of the event volunteering for to their squadron POC or directly contact Staff Sgt. Amy Weger at 982-3874 or Staff Sgt. Caramel Padrones at 982-5678.

Air Force Community Assessment

Spouses can take the survey at <http://spouseAFCAsurvey.com>; it will take about 30 minutes to complete and will remain open until June.

The survey data gathered in the past has helped generate programs such as “Give Parents a Break” free childcare and the free oil change program spouses are eligible for when their family member is deployed. The survey touches on spouses’ and their families’ personal adjustment to arriving to the base, both individual and family adaptation to the Air Force, coping with deployments and the availability of support from formal agencies.

Graphics no longer available on base

The Base Multimedia Center will be without graphics support from now until June 1. All graphics support will have to be accomplished through DAPS or another off base agency using your government purchase card. For more information, call the Public Affairs office at 982-5637.

New Housing Office hours

The McChord Housing Office has recently revised its hours of operation. Walk-in hours are now 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointment hours are 8 to 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For community housing assistance, call 982-5517, and for military housing assistance, call 982-5516.

Lost and found

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron is currently in possession of numerous items of personal property such as bicycles, keys, etc. These items were found on or near McChord and may be reclaimed by contacting the Security Forces Investigation Section, located in Bldg. 160. For more information, contact the Investigations Section at 982-5936.

Names to Note

The following Airmen graduated from the Julius A. Kolb Airman Leadership School as part of Class 08-D (April 11- May 14).

- **Senior Airman Phillip Blackford**, 4th Airlift Squadron - **Academic Achievement Award, Distinguished Graduate Award**
- **Senior Airman Jessica Evans**, 194th Mission Support Flight - **Distinguished Graduate Award**
- **Senior Airman Donna Kotewa**, 62nd Communications Squadron - **John L. Levitow Award**
- **Senior Airman Ines Parker**, 62nd Services Squadron - **Leadership Award**

- **Senior Airman Byron Alde**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Senior Airman Miguel Amador**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Arnold Bustillo III**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Airman Alfredo Cervantes Jr.**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman Donnie Davis**, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Senior Airman Dale Dixon Jr.**, 36th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Airman Joereen Estrella**, 62nd LRS
- **Senior Airman Jeremy Garber**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman Brandon Gross**, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron
- **Senior Airman Erik Hartman**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Christopher Hollins**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Ronald Hollister**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Thomas Jenkins**, 62nd Operations Support Squadron
- **Senior Airman Robert Marion**, 62nd CS
- **Senior Airman Bryan Painter**, 10th Airlift Squadron
- **Senior Airman William Skwarlo**, 62nd SFS
- **Senior Airman Adam Snedden**, 62nd AMXS
- **Senior Airman Christopher Strait**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman Natasha Szeluga**, 62nd CS
- **Senior Airman Marcus Upshaw**, 62nd AMXS
- **Senior Airman Jerico Witz**, 62nd CES

*Another name to note: **Ms Lois A. Seibert** , 62nd Comptroller Squadron - **30 Year Civil Service Award**

